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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 23

JEANNE WEARS IT WELL

STYLE ICON BALANCES MOTHERHOOD AND HER CAREER — AND SHARES HER STORY FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PAGE 25

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RCMP on hunt for suspect in human-smuggling case

MV Sun Sea.
Remaining refugee claims filed by Tamil migrants to be decided in coming months

Mounties have launched an international manhunt for the first person charged in connection with a ship that brought hundreds of Tamil migrants to Canada's West Coast a year and a half ago.

Thayakaran Markandu has been charged with organizing illegal entry into Canada, the RCMP announced Wednesday. The charge relates to the MV Sun Sea, which arrived in August 2010 carrying 492 Tamil migrants.

Markandu, who was born in 1972 according to court records, is currently believed to be living abroad, though Mounties haven't confirmed where, said Sgt. Duncan Pound.

"We believe he's not inside Canada, so we're working with our international partners to have the warrant executed in an effort to bring him to justice," Pound said in an interview. "It's our expectation that once he has been located, we would then initiate an extradition process and pursue that, if possible."

The Sun Sea arrived with 492 Tamils on board, including men, women and children. All made refugee claims, pointing to decades of violence wrought by a 26-year civil war in their home country of Sri Lanka.

As of January, three of the passengers had their refugee claims approved, according to the latest figures available from the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Another 13 migrants had their claims withdrawn, either because of deportation orders or because the claimants withdrew their applications themselves, and five claims were abandoned.

The refugee board figures indicate 14 Sun Sea passengers had been ordered deported as of Jan. 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers make ONE FINAL STAND as three-day walkout winds down

British Columbia Teachers' Federation president Susan Lambert addresses thousands of supporters at the Vancouver Art Gallery during the final day of the teachers strike Wednesday. Story, page 3.
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

You win or you die

HBO Canada putting on all-day Game of Thrones marathon at VanCity Theatre ahead of Season 2 premiere PAGE 6

Butter chicken, step-by-step

Forget the takeout and try making this popular Indian dish at home PAGE 28

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Deal off

No Telus stamp on BC Place, says government

The B.C. government has hung up on Telus over the idea of renaming the revitalized BC Place stadium in Vancouver.

The company had reportedly offered the government $40 million for naming rights to the building, but Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell said it wasn't a good enough deal for taxpayers.

Besides, he said B.C. residents like the name the way it is. "BC Place has been around for a long, long time. People in British Columbia are used to it, they like it, they wanted it, and we think it's best if we keep it. It came down to the final principle of retaining the name BC Place," he said.

That didn't go over well with Telus president Darren Entwistle. "We are deeply disappointed with this decision. It is regrettable. We believe Telus, our brand and our 25,000 team members and retirees across British Columbia would have been a great partner for one of the greatest sports facilities in North America," he said in a statement.

NDP Leader Adrian Dix accused the Liberals of flubbing the potential deal with Telus. "This is pure incompetence on the part of the government and they're laughing about it," Dix said, referring to laughter from the government benches in the legislature when the NDP brought up the issue.

While Telus has been denied naming rights, the company will still be associated with BC Place through a technology deal to be worked out with PavCo, the building operator. Bell says some of the revenue lost through the failed deal with Telus will be made up with other advertising agreements related to the stadium. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BCTF president Susan Lambert at a rally outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on Wednesday. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Resentment in the air as teachers return to work

Bill 22. Three-day strike ends with giant Vancouver rally

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Just because teachers are back in classrooms Thursday doesn't mean their war with the provincial government is over.

Thousands of teachers, union supporters, parents and students rallied outside the Vancouver Art Gallery to throw their support behind the B.C. Teachers' Federation Wednesday, on the last of three legal strike days this week.

Amid the ramped-up and rampant rhetoric, BCTF president Susan Lambert continued to insist teachers won't retreat as Bill 22 threatens to legislate an "unreasonable" contract extension on them.

"This legislation will not sit well with teachers, it will be resisted by teachers. I don't know what that will look like yet, we haven't decided yet," said Lambert. "We'll always give parents adequate notice."

Despite playing coy earlier in the week, Lambert confirmed teachers will be back working "bell to bell" Thursday.

The union is legally entitled to one more day of full strike action next week, though Lambert ominously said members are keeping their options open.

"Our members are being consulted right now," she told media.

B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair said the union will back BCTF to the hilt, but said conditions are ripe for a settlement thanks to the strike and public support for teachers.

"I believe there is still lots of time to make an agreement," he said. "The government has to be realizing that there is no win in Bill 22 for them, the politics suck.

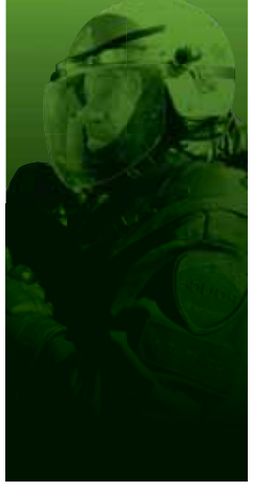
"We did a poll and found only 15 per cent of people support the legislation. That's a big problem for (Premier Christy Clark) if she thinks she's going to be re-elected."

1 NEWS

On the web

Student protests

Four people were injured during student protests as Quebec's battle over tuition-fee hikes took a nasty turn Wednesday. Watch at metronews.ca/video



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Café culture meets cycling

Brewing buzz. New café wants to capitalize on Hornby bike lane

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
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It has coffee, bicycles and retro furniture — all Musette Café needs now is sushi and yoga classes, and it will have all of Vancouver's obsessions in one place.

The new café, which opened last Saturday in an alley near Davie and Burrard, is trying to capitalize on the popularity of the Hornby bike lane, and of cycling as a mode of transportation and as a sport.

The walls of Musette Café are lined with cycling memorabilia, from bikes to jerseys and even tiny cyclist figurines.

The café walls also feature a wide array of branded musettes, the eponymous cotton cyclist bag.

"A musette holds everything a cyclist needs," said manager Dave Vukets. "That's what we want to do as well."

The café is looking to satisfy the niche cycling market by supplying easy bike lockup, free access to a variety of tools and all the portable, high-energy snacks a cyclist needs.

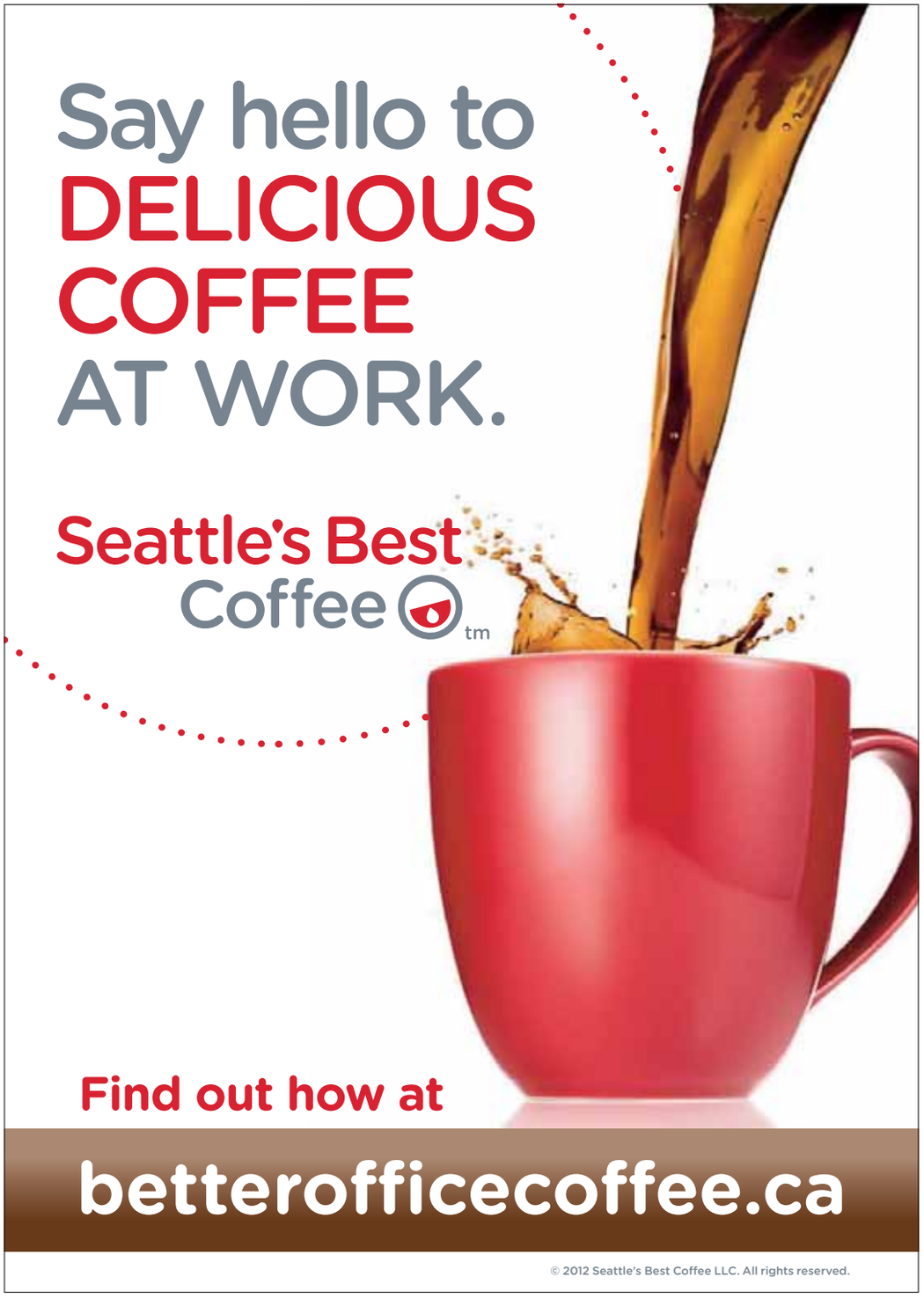
They also have an arrangement whereby the adjacent crepe shop will cook crepes to order for Musette customers.

"In this city, it's all hockey," said Vukets. "We want to be a place that shows all the big events in our sport."

Musette Café can be a bit difficult to find, especially with its Burrard address (1262 Burrard St.), but its location allows plenty of bike space, making it an easy detour from the Hornby bike lane.

"People ask why we'd set up in an alley," Vukets laughed. "But to cyclists, I think it makes perfect sense."

Staff serve customers in the newly opened Musette Café, at 1262 Burrard St.
GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO



International Women's Day. Striving to be more than just beautiful

The theme for Thursday's International Women's Day is connecting girls and inspiring futures, emphasizing the need for early education about self-worth.

"Women's values are so often associated with her physical appearance, her beauty and her youth," said Chantelle Krish, public-relations manager of the YWCA.

"This isn't how it has to be. Women should strive for more than just being beautiful."

In honour of IWD, the YWCA hosted a free screening of the film Miss Representation on Wednesday. The film highlights how "women are portrayed in the media and how their value is inappropriately linked to their physical appearance and their sexuality."

Along with IWD and films like Miss Representation, Krish says there are excellent campaigns that are motivating women to stand up for their rights.

"The SlutWalk movement works hard to reappropriate the word 'slut' and to reverse the idea that it doesn't matter what you wear, it doesn't matter what you say. No means no."

Krish says that although women's rights have made terrific strides, current trends are what hold women back.

"Girls' magazines that promote physical fitness as a way to attain a man, rather than as a way to be healthy, those are trends that scare me."

IWD is a reminder that there is still room for better integration of women into society and a need for a rebalance of global gender equality.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 25

Women take part in a SlutWalk in Vancouver in May 2011.
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

IWD events in the city

International Women's Day events around Vancouver:

- **HE[A]R – a celebration of women in sound**
  The Waldorf Hotel, 1489 East Hastings St. 8 p.m.
- **Freeze Flash Mob**
  Vancouver Art Gallery
  12 p.m. Amnesty International will be holding a flash mob to highlight awareness of the need for better women's-rights coverage in the media.

Fire

Arson damages East Side bookstore

Vancouver firefighters responded to four separate fires Tuesday night, one of which was deliberately set.

Investigators said arson was the cause of a fire that broke out early Wednesday morning on the ground floor of a bookstore on the 3400 block of Commercial Drive and spread to the three residential floors above.

The bookstore suffered serious smoke and water damage. KYLA JONES/FOR METRO

Investigation

Mountie charged for in-custody incident

Abbotsford police are recommending assault charges against a member of the Williams Lake RCMP after a "extremely challenging" investigation.

The department was called in as an outside police agency after an incident on Sept. 10, 2011, involving the officer and a 17-year-old girl in the back seat of a patrol vehicle.

MATT KIELTKA/METRO

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9

10

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SFU-led study probes antimatter mystery

It's the most fundamental question in all of philosophy: Why is there something instead of nothing?

Now, an international team including 15 Canadians from SFU, UBC and elsewhere, has published a groundbreaking study that may help answer that question by probing the structure of antimatter.

The study, headed in part by SFU Prof. Mike Hayden and published Wednesday in Nature, details the "atomic fingerprint" of an antiparticle, which can tell physicists a great deal about the atom's basic nature.

Understanding this nature is important because, for decades, antimatter has made it impossible for physicists to explain why matter exists at all.

The modern scientific understanding of the origin of the universe implies that in the instant following, the Big Bang, both matter and antimatter should have been created in equal amounts.

When a particle of matter and its corresponding particle of antimatter come into contact with one another, they react in an event called annihilation, which serves to destroys both particles.

The ALPHA collaboration prepare the microwave injection system at CERN in Switzerland. GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

This tendency to annihilate implies that a universe containing equal amounts of matter and antimatter should have annihilated itself soon after coming into existence.

The fact that the universe contains plenty of matter, and virtually no antimatter, is one that has confounded physicists for decades.

"Is the physics that describes those antiatoms precisely the same as the physics that describes normal atoms," Hayden asked, "or are there subtle differences?"

If there are differences, they may explain current absence of antimatter and whether antimatter disappeared after the Big Bang or was never created in the first place.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

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Welcome to the world of Westeros

Game of Thrones. Before launch of new season, HBO will host free, all-day marathon at Vancity Theatre

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Winter is coming ... to Vancouver.

HBO Canada announced Wednesday it will be hosting a free all-day Game of Thrones marathon at the Vancity Theatre on March 23.

Devoted fans of the hit HBO series based on the best-selling George R.R. Martin books can watch all 10 episodes of the first season before the anticipated premiere of Game of Thrones Season 2 on April 1.

Fans will also get a chance to have their photos taken with the famed Iron Throne, which stands more than seven feet tall and weighs more than 500 pounds, as seen on the show.

Doors open at 7:30 a.m. All screenings will be first-come, first-served.

Ten finalists will also battle it out in an Own the Throne musical thrones contest to win a $1,000 gift card, A Song of Ice and Fire book set autographed by George R.R. Martin and the Game of Thrones Season 1 on DVD.

The Iron Throne from HBO's Game of Thrones will be in Vancouver in two weeks. CONTRIBUTED

Climate change

Experts to weigh in on rising sea levels that threaten coastal communities

Leading climate-change experts are gathering in Vancouver Thursday to discuss the fate of coastal communities facing rising sea levels.

Experts are warning that if sea levels continue to rise at their current rate, much of Metro Vancouver could be under the sea by 2300. Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team is leading a town hall meeting at its Vancouver campus from 7 to 9 p.m. to get public input on how to address the issue.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Housing market. Property ownership bar remains 'extremely high' in city

The good news: Buying a home in Vancouver is getting more affordable.

The bad news: Buying a home in Vancouver is still unrealistic for most local buyers.

For the second quarter in a row, an RBC study found that affordability measures in the city have dropped between 2 and 4.6 per cent, largely due to house prices trending down after hitting all-time highs in early 2011.

But while the prospect of owning a home in the city may be a bit brighter, it's far from affordable.

"Nevertheless, owning a home at current prices would still take up a huge chunk (86 per cent in the case of a bungalow) of a typical household budget," the report says. "The ownership bar thus remains extremely high in the Vancouver-area market, and this will continue to drive local buyers away."

RBC determines affordability measures by the proportion of median pre-tax household income required to service the cost of mortgage payments, property taxes and utilities of housing at market prices.

In addition to the 86 per cent affordability measure for a Vancouver bungalow, the study gives a 92.3 per cent score for a standard two-storey home and 44.8 per cent for a standard condominium.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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New city police recruits not just foaling around

Policing. Horses purchased after London Drugs chips in to thank police for their efforts during Stanley Cup riot

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Brothers Turbo and London will be horsing around the streets of Vancouver as the newest members of the VPD's mounted squad.

On Wednesday, the Vancouver Police Department showed off the two black Percherons, which were bought from Dunster, B.C., about 240 kilometres east of Prince George, after a donation from London Drugs.

The retail chain raised about $7,000 selling I love Vancouver T-shirts and then donated it to the VPD in gratitude for their efforts in the June 15 Stanley Cup riot.

"They went above and beyond the call, and we will forever be grateful," said Tony Hunt, loss prevention manager at London Drugs.

Officers and the mounted squad helped about 30 staff members make their way safely out of the basement at the London Drugs store on Granville Street during the riot, he added.

VPD Insp. Scott Thompson said it was remarkable that both Turbo and London — originally called Merlin but renamed after the retail chain's donation, passed the mounted squad's tough assessment process, as only one in 10 horses usually make it through.

The squad has 13 horses. It costs about $30,000 annually to feed the animals.

The VPD says horses are still relevant in policing despite officers having access to cruisers and motorcycles.

"Horses are invaluable — one horse is worth about 50 officers on the ground," Thompson said. "It's the 21st century, but there still isn't a better tool for crowd control."

The horses have been patrolling Stanley Park and the West End, but will also be trotting their way to the Granville Street entertainment district.

Turbo, left, and London are the latest additions to the Vancouver Police Department's mounted squad. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Tech conference imagines revolutionary ideas

Penn State students Simon Healey and Andrew Stanley with their improved CPR-training mannequin. GRAHAM TEMPLETON/METRO

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
vancouver@metronews.ca

Academics and inventors met Wednesday at the Vancouver Sheraton Wall Centre to show off their work in the area of haptics, the use of tactile feedback to enhance traditional user interfaces.

The most famous example of haptic feedback is the so-called rumble functionality of modern video-game controllers, but presenters at Wednesday's conference went far beyond mere shaking.

Biomedical applications came first, ranging from a cane for the visually disabled that vibrates to alert the user of low-hanging obstacles, to a mannequin designed to better simulate the physics of a real human chest, for use in CPR-training programs.

One inventor even wanted to revolutionize dental education by making tools that can simulate the feeling of drilling, or of probing a tooth for cavities.

Teaching was a major theme of the show. "Haptic feedback improves learning retention," claimed one prominent sign.

Audience members were invited to use various force-feedback controllers to learn how to do things like pick virtual locks and catch virtual fish.

Research into haptics isn't confined to the independent inventor, however; firms like Microsoft, Sony and Apple have all invested in researching how tactile feedback could give them an edge in any number of areas of the high-tech market.

Applications

Tactile haptic feedback is becoming common in cellular devices.

- **Handsets.** Manufacturers like LG and Motorola are including different types of haptic technologies in their devices.
- **How is the technology used?** In most cases, this takes the form of a vibration response to touch.

Drugs

Shortage may cancel surgeries

Some elective surgeries may be cancelled in B.C. later this year because of a shortage of pain-killing drugs. Ottawa is moving to speed up approval of medications from outside Canada to ease the shortage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexual assault

Man claims sex with teacher

A man who claims he was sexually assaulted by a teacher in Vernon beginning when he was 12 years old, testified Wednesday he had sexual contact with Deborah Ashton as many as 231 times. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commission

Pickton book given to families

Missing women commissioner Wally Oppal has agreed to give the lawyer for the families of Robert Pickton's victims a never-published book. Lawyer Cameron Ward asked for disclosure of the book in January. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attack

Soldier stabbed in Nanaimo

A 23-year-old reservist was slashed in the neck in Nanaimo in what police are calling an unprovoked attack. RCMP say the victim was waiting for a bus when a man pulled out a knife and slashed him before fleeing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elder abuse

B.C. caretaker facing charges

The caretaker of a B.C. Housing facility in McBride has been charged with threatening, intimidating and harassing residents. Charges were laid following an investigation that began in May. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dual blazes

One arrested after hotel burns

One person is in custody after fires destroyed one historic hotel and damaged a second. The blazes broke out within minutes of each other at the century-old Grand Forks Hotel and the Winnipeg Hotel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Immigraton system. Minister wants better immigrant-job match

Newcomer options. Kenney says the current process is dysfunctional, wants to erase huge backlog

Major changes to the immigration system could include erasing a massive backlog of applications, the minister in charge said Wednesday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said all options are on the table when it comes to modernizing the process of bringing in would-be immigrants.

"We must have transformational change to move to an immigration program that works for Canada and for newcomers," he said in a speech to the Economic Club of Canada.

He said the changes which will roll out over the course of 2012, will include one to give the provinces the ability to cherry-pick the immigrants they want.

"At this point we are looking at all options of dealing with these backlogs and coming up with a faster, more responsive system," said Kenney.

Kenney said the system as it stands is dysfunctional.

"We can't continue to tell people that they're going to wait for eight years for a decision on whether they can come to Canada," he said.

He said the government also needs to be more proactive when it comes to communicating with potential applicants about different routes into Canada.

But NDP Immigration critic Don Davies says while it's important to match immigrants with economic needs, there needs to be a more holistic approach to the issue.

"Immigration deals with people, it deals with families and human beings," Davies said. "It's not just treating people like economic widgets in a machine that we can ruthlessly bring into our country."

He said the idea of transferring more power to the provinces and in turn to employers, has risks.

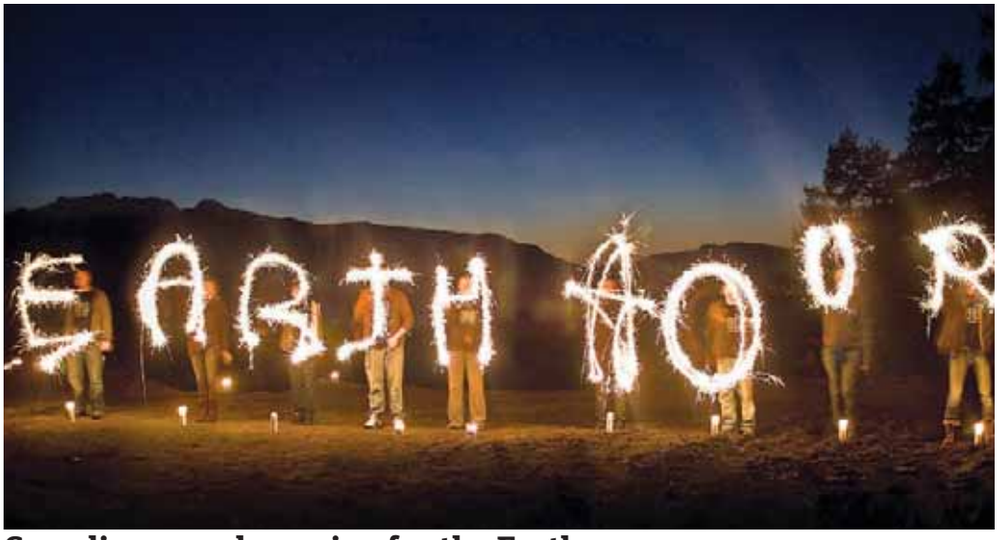
Kenney said that wouldn't be the point of allowing more matching between jobs and immigrants.

"It's not about privatizing the immigration system, it's about a more active role of recruitment for people so they have jobs when they show up," he said. "I'd rather have an engineer working as an engineer than a cab driver. That's really where we are trying to go with this." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clogged system

There is currently a backlog of over a million applications, including as many as 460,000 in the skilled-worker category.

- **Long process.** Officials told the committee that, without changes to the system, the backlog won't be eliminated until 2017.
- **Changes.** Minister Kenney said the changes will include giving the provinces the ability to cherry-pick the immigrants they want.
- **Options.** Canada has an eye on New Zealand, where a backlog of immigration applications was legislated away in 2003 and replaced by a pool of prospective applicants.
- **Testing stage.** A pilot program will allow provinces and territories to accept an additional 1,500 immigrants from the skilled-worker category.



Canadians spark passion for the Earth

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of Earth Hour, WWF Canada is calling on Canadians to help write Canada's first crowd-sourced song — the Team Earth Hour Anthem. Write a song lyric expressing your love for the planet and why it's important that we protect it, in 140 characters or less, and submit entries on WWF's Facebook page, wwf.ca/earthhouranthem. The submissions will be voted on by the public and the song will be assembled from the top-ranked lyrics.

COURTESY OF JEREMIAH ARMSTRONG/WWF-CANADA

Brutal attack

al-Qaida claims Yemen slaughter

Al-Qaida claimed responsibility on Wednesday for a daring weekend assault on a military base in southern Yemen, killing nearly 200 soldiers, the bloodiest battle in a year of turmoil.

In the aftermath of the brazen attack, the UN envoy to Yemen warned that the terror group has gained ground during the country's political crisis.

Al-Qaida's Yemen branch said in a statement posted on several jihadi websites that it carried out the attack in reaction to the military's plans to sweep through its strongholds in the city of Zinjibar, the provisional capital of southern Abyan province. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toy title

Landmark not a Lego shoo-in

A Montreal landmark has won an international competition among Lego enthusiasts — but the thrill of victory has been tempered by the sting of rejection.

The Habitat 67 housing complex won an Internet vote, beating out iconic structures like Paris' Eiffel Tower, Rome's Colosseum and the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The Lego company had — without making any promises — said it would consider creating a toy set inspired by the winning entry.

"We can't promise to build it, but we do promise to be inspired by you," the company said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disease alarm

Sick Alaska seals becoming a trend

U.S. wildlife officials say a sick ringed seal that was captured in southeast Alaska last week appears to be afflicted by the same symptoms suffered last year by ringed seals and Pacific walrus along northern coastlines.

The National Marine Fisheries Service says the Yakutat seal was taken to Anchorage and euthanized because it was so ill.

The seal had almost total hair loss and nodular, scabbed skin sores consistent with the disease seen on the North Slope and along the Bering Strait. More than 60 dead and 75 sick seals were reported in Alaska starting in July. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accident verdict

Report: Crash crew took shortcuts

A report released Thursday by New Zealand investigators on how a cargo ship ran aground on a reef last year paints a picture of a crew trying to take short cuts in order to stay on schedule.

On Oct. 5, the Rena smashed into the well-charted Astrolabe reef near the port of Tauranga, spilling 400 tons of fuel oil, fouling pristine beaches and killing thousands of seabirds in what has been called the country's worst maritime environmental disaster. The preliminary report was prepared by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Race still open despite big Romney lead

Republican primaries. Obama's approval ratings on the rise as Republicans continue to battle it out for the nomination

Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney won in six of 10 Super Tuesday states but managed only the narrowest victory over rival Rick Santorum in all-important Ohio, an outcome that leaves open the contest for the nomination to challenge President Barack Obama.

Santorum, the former senator, captured three states and Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House of Representatives, notched a victory in Georgia, the state he represented in Congress for nearly two decades.

Rallying for Romney

Romney is "the only candidate in this race who's got a plan to turn this economy around."

Republican Eric Cantor, majority leader, House of Representatives

The mixed results in the 10 state contests held on Tuesday suggest that Romney, despite padding his lead in the tally of delegates who will pick the nominee this summer, is still struggling to win over the Republican party's most conservative elements.

In the aftermath of the Tuesday vote, Obama campaign manager Jim Messina, in a conference call with reporters, said Romney was "limping across the finish line" in primary states.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney speaks during a Super Tuesday event in Boston. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

Murder trial. Mother testifies she met woman now in jail for girl's killing

Victoria Stafford's mother crossed paths before with the woman convicted of the eight-year-old's murder when she bought drugs at her house, though 18-year-old Terri-Lynne McClintic seemed too strung out to even notice, court heard Wednesday.

McClintic, now 21, pleaded guilty two years ago to first-degree murder in Tori's death. Michael Rafferty, her boyfriend at the time, is now on trial for first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

He has pleaded not guilty.

Tara McDonald testified Wednesday at Rafferty's trial and said she was addicted to OxyContin at the time her daughter was abducted outside her Woodstock, Ont., school on April 8, 2009. She had even taken some that day in the hours before Tori was supposed to arrive home from school, she said.

Terri-Lynne McClintic is set to take the stand at Rafferty's trial starting Tuesday, Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney told the jury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tara McDonald, mother of slain Victoria (Tori) Stafford, walks into court in London, Ontario, on Wednesday. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyber crime

Terrorists may pursue cyber attacks: FBI director

FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday that terrorists may seek to train their own recruits or hire outsiders with an eye toward pursuing cyber attacks on the United States.

"Terrorists have not used the Internet to launch a full-scale cyber attack, but we cannot underestimate their intent," Mueller told a House subcommittee. He said terrorists have shown interest in developing hacking skills, and that the evolving nature of the problem makes the FBI's counterterrorism mission more difficult.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holy hackers

Vatican website hit by hackers

Members of the amorphous hacking group Anonymous claimed Wednesday to have taken down the Vatican website to protest everything from Catholic doctrine to the sexual abuse of children.

The website was inaccessible for much of Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Vatican spokesman Rev. Federico Lombardi confirmed the attack but declined to comment on its possible source. He said he didn't know how long it would take the Vatican's technicians to bring the site back up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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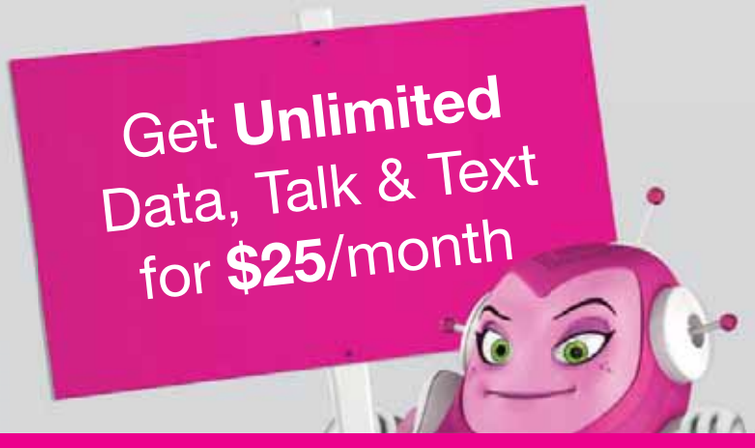

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Workplace

You're hired. Say thank you to Facebook

Facebook is already an established screening tool for hiring managers — but new research shows it can also be an indicator for job success.

Researchers say a 10-minute sift through a Facebook profile can predict how a job candidate will perform in the workplace more accurately than a personality assessment test.

Researchers found the Facebook scores were more accurate in predicting success than personality tests in areas like conscientiousness, emotional stability, agreeableness and openness to experience.

What did the "raters" like on Facebook?

People who travel and enjoy new experiences, people with hobbies and creative interests and people with friends and a sense of humour.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parliament

Tories think again on more powers for electoral chief

The Conservative government has reversed course and now says it will support an NDP motion to give Elections Canada increased audit powers.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper (below) told the House of Commons on Wednesday his government will support new legislation — as proposed by the official Opposition.

A Tory-dominated committee last month turned down a recommendation by the chief electoral officer for new investigative powers. Marc Mayrand wants to be able to compel parties to back up their financial statements with receipts and details.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada chaos set to ruin March break?

Strike threat. Our pension concerns are not being addressed, angry union members warn the airline

Air Canada's biggest union is threatening to strike just as the busy March break travel season gets underway.

Its members are furious over what they consider the airline's refusal to deal with pension issues.

Union vice-president Dave Ritchie said Wednesday the machinists, cargo agents and baggage handlers rejected a tentative deal because Air Canada hasn't addressed the pension concerns — especially after members agreed to millions of dollars in cost cutting to help the airline restructure.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers said its 8,600 members will walk off the job if they don't get a new deal by 12:01 a.m. ET on Mar. 12.

Ritchie said if the union were to strike, flights would be grounded because its members provide crucial services such as fixing and deicing planes.

"If we hit the lines, flights will be grounded," he said.

Ritchie said the union's negotiating committee underestimated the anger of its membership, who rejected a tentative deal by a 66 per cent margin.

Of particular concern are wages and a sizable pension deficit, which the union says Air Canada has not dealt with, despite the sale of $2 billion in assets.

The union had already agreed in 2009 to defer payment on its pension plan until 2014, but the company is asking for $350 million in pension concessions while top executives continue to be paid handsomely, Ritchie declared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Union fury

"In my 40 years of collective bargaining, I have never seen the level of anger that I have seen in the membership at Air Canada."

Dave Ritchie, union vice-president

Tories worried

Don't spoil vacations, Raitt pleads

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt said the government is taking the labour threat seriously and is concerned a strike would disrupt the travel plans of thousands and have a big negative impact on the economy.

"This is a particularly bad time for thousands of families," Raitt said.

"We encourage both parties to avoid a work stoppage and restore confidence for the travelling public and Canadian job creators that rely on commercial air services."

Duncan Dee, Air Canada executive vice-president and CEO, attempted to downplay the possibility of travel chaos.

"Should a settlement not be reached and the IAMAW commences job action, the airline will endeavour to minimize inconvenience to its customers," Dee said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Billy-club police move in on Montreal protesters

Quebec's battle over tuition-fee hikes takes a nasty turn as students square off against police in Montreal on Wednesday. Clouds of tear gas wafted over downtown. Riot police used billy clubs to slam their way through protesters who were blocking access to a public building. Some responded by tossing snowballs at officers. Four people were injured. ANDRE PICHETTE/LA PRESSE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family trauma. No word from boyfriend after woman vanishes on cruise

It's been one week since a B.C. woman disappeared while on a cruise ship off the coast of Florida and her grieving family say they're still waiting to hear from the boyfriend she was travelling with when she went missing.

Fariba Amani, 47, disappeared on Wednesday, Feb. 29 as the Bahamas Celebration was travelling from Freeport, Bahamas to Palm Beach, Fla.

According to U.S. media reports, the woman was reported missing by her boyfriend, Ramiz Golshani, also from B.C, who shared a cabin with her.

Golshani reportedly told authorities he last saw Amani at 1 a.m. on Wednesday when she went inside a gift shop and he left for a casino. When he woke up she still hadn't returned.

Amani's sister, Saloumeh Amani of Maple Ridge, B.C., said while she has spoken with the U.S. coast guard, the FBI and even the president of the cruise-line company, she has yet to talk to Golshani, who has since returned to Canada. "He hasn't tried to contact us at all since his return," Saloumeh, 27, told The Canadian Press.

U.S. search-and-rescue crews trolled the waters between Bahamas and Florida for about 84 hours, covering an area of nearly 19,000 square kilometres. They also did air searches.

The disappearance doesn't make sense, said Saloumeh, because Fariba wasn't a drinker or a partier, wasn't depressed, had two children, and as an esthetician had clients and seminars booked for months.

Golshani told CBC News that he has informed U.S. investigators about everything he knows and has been cleared of any suspicions. The family has filed a missing-person's report with the Port Moody, B.C. RCMP. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing woman

"She had a love for life. She was very outgoing, very friendly and approachable."

Saloumeh Amani, Fariba's Amani's sister

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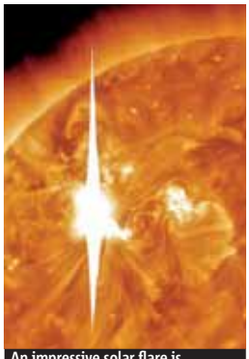
Huge solar flare headed our way

Bright lights. Solar storm of charged particles will smack the Earth at about 6.4M km/h


An impressive solar flare is heading toward Earth. NASA HANDOUT

The largest solar storm in five years is racing toward Earth, threatening to unleash a torrent of charged particles that could disrupt power grids, GPS and airplane flights.

The sun erupted Tuesday evening, and the effects should start smacking Earth between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. EST Thursday, according to forecasters at the federal government's Space Weather Prediction Center. They say the storm, which started with a massive solar flare, is growing as it speeds outward from the sun.

"It's hitting us right in the nose," said Joe Kunches, a scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He called it the sun's version of "Super Tuesday."

Scientists say the sun has been relatively quiet for some time. And this storm, while strong, may seem fiercer because Earth has been lulled by several years of weak solar activity.

"This is a good-size event, but not the extreme type," said Bill Murtagh, program coordinator for the space weather centre.

The solar storm is likely to last through Friday morning, but the region that erupted can still send more blasts our way, Kunches said. He said another set of active sunspots is ready to aim at Earth right after this.

The storm is coming after an earlier and weaker solar eruption happened Sunday, Kunches said. The latest blast of particles will probably arrive slightly later than forecasters first thought.

That means for North America the "good" part of a solar storm — the one that creates more noticeable auroras or Northern Lights — will peak Thursday evening. Auroras could dip as far south as the Great Lakes states or lower, Kunches said, but a full moon will make them harder to see. Auroras are "probably the treat we get when the sun erupts," he said.

But there is potential for widespread problems. Solar storms have three ways they can disrupt technology on Earth: with magnetic, radio and radiation emissions. This is an unusual situation when all three types of solar storm disruptions are likely to be strong, Kunches said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Hippy' model fights back

Canadian-born Ananda Marchildon, the Dutch model who won the television show Holland's Next Top Model, has won a lawsuit against the Elite model agency after she was dropped for having hips that were supposedly too large. The Amsterdam District Court ruled that Marchildon, 25, was entitled to the $98,000 contract that she won in the 2008 production of the show. SLOGGI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Research progress

Scientists zero in on 'God particle'

Two teams of physicists are getting closer in the search for the "God particle" of physics that would help explain the fundamentals of the universe. In the hunt for the Higgs boson, they have come up with similar findings to those announced late last year by researchers in Europe. While they have not found the elusive particle, they have narrowed the area where it can be found, if it exists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheeky clothing

Irish ire on apparel

Urban Outfitters continues to push the envelope in marketing with a selection of St. Patrick's Day merchandise that stereotypes the country's natives as drinkers.

New York congressman Joe Crowley, co-chair of the legislature's ad hoc committee on Irish affairs, has asked Urban Outfitters CEO Tedford Marlow to pull the merchandise.

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Obama gets her vote

Obama suporter Bessie Adams waves exults as she watches the presidential motorcade pass by on its way to the Freightliner plant on North Main Street in Mount Holly, N.C., Wednesday. Obama was touting his energy policies Wednesday in North Carolina, a state that figures prominently in the presidential election and will host the Democratic presidential convention.

MIKE HENSDILL/THE GASTON GAZETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspicious satellite pics spark new Iran fears

Evidence. Trucks and earth-moving gear may have been cleaning up after nuke testing, diplomats believe

Satellite images of an Iranian military facility appear to show trucks and earth-moving vehicles at the site.

The images could indicate an attempted cleanup of radioactive traces possibly left by tests of a nuclear-weapon trigger, diplomats said Wednesday.

The assertions from the diplomats, all nuclear experts accredited to the International Atomic Energy Agency, could add to the international pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes.

While the U.S. and the European Union are backing a sanctions-heavy approach, Israel has warned it may resort to a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities to prevent it from obtaining atomic weapons.

Two of the diplomats said the crews at the Parchin military site may be trying to erase evidence of tests of a small experimental neutron device used to set off a nuclear explosion.

A third diplomat could not confirm that but said any attempt to trigger a so-called neutron initiator could only be in the context of trying to develop nuclear arms.

The diplomats said they suspect attempts at sanitization because some of the vehicles at the scene appeared to be haulage trucks and other equipment suited to carting off potentially contaminated soil from the site.

The IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, has already identified Parchin as the location of Iran's suspected nuclear weapons related testing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crucial device

A neutron initiator "if placed in the centre of a nuclear core ... could produce a burst of neutrons suitable for initiating a fission chain reaction."

From the IAEA's November report

Vital question

Would Hamas join in a war?

Gaza's ruling Hamas on Wednesday sent conflicting signals on whether it would stay on the sidelines if war breaks out between Israel and Iran.

One Hamas spokesperson said the group didn't have enough firepower the enter a regional war.

But a senior official later reportedly threatened "retaliation with utmost power."

First, Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said the group has only "humble weapons that aim to defend and not to attack."

But later Iran's semi-official Fars news agency quoted another senior Hamas official in Gaza, Mahmoud Zahar, as saying that "retaliation with utmost power is the position of Hamas with regard to a Zionist war on Iran."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shot after shot ... Norway massacre horror detailed

Exactly 100 people were shot, some of them up to eight times, before the gunman surrendered to police.

Of the 69 people killed, 56 were shot in the head.

One drowned and another fell off a cliff in desperate attempts to flee the mayhem in Norway.

The indictment unveiled Wednesday against confessed killer and rightist extremist Anders Behring Breivik describes the horror unleashed on a political youth camp on July 22 with gruesome detail.

"Panic and mortal fear in children, youth and adults arose during the shooting, further intensified by the fact that there were limited possibilities of escape or hiding,'' prosecutors said in a 19-page document charging Breivik with terrorism and premeditated murder.

Breivik, 33, has confessed to the shooting massacre on Utoya island and a bombing that killed eight people in Oslo on the same day, but denies criminal guilt.

In pretrial hearings, he has portrayed the victims as "traitors" for embracing immigration policies he claims will result in an Islamic colonization of Norway.

"The defendant has committed extremely serious offences on a scale that has never previously been experienced in our country in modern times," prosecutors Svein Holden and Inga Bejer Engh said in the indictment.

The trial is set to start on April 16.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Innocent victim

27

After the attack, a 51-year-old woman needed 27 stitches when a 30-centimetre-long wooden splint was removed from her head.

Police furor

No cellphone, no problem?

Winnipeg police say they are standing behind the officers who issued a distracted-driving ticket to a man who claims he doesn't own a cellphone.

Police say they had "information contradictory to the information depicted in the local media."

They say they pulled the man and his wife over after "several blocks" and gave him a ticket.

The only problem, said the driver, Laszlo Piszker, is that he does not own a cellphone. METRO WINNIPEG

Inferno. Families crowd morgues after hundreds die in Brazzaville blasts

Families desperately crowded outside morgues on Wednesday while others tried to get past the police tape blocking access to the wasteland that now stretches over one square mile of Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo.

It's a tableau of twisted metal, punctuated by the unmistakable smell of death.

More than three days since a fire inside an arms depot set off a series of catastrophic explosions, officials say no co-ordinated rescue effort has yet been launched, making it increasingly unlikely that any more people will be pulled alive from the flattened homes, churches, businesses and government buildings.

At least 246 people were killed after the fire in the armoury.

The blaze catapulted shells, mortars, rockets and other munitions into the densely populated neighbourhood of Mpila, according to national radio.

The death toll is likely to rise as the debris is removed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It may look like an iPad 2 but it's different — really

New features.
Enhanced graphics, faster processor and upgraded camera

MIKE YAWNEY
ottawa@metronews.ca

Every time Apple hints at releasing a new product, the rumours begin to swirl. Speculation on what will be announced and the latest features are inevitable. Some of the rumours turn out to be true, some of them wrong. In the case of the new iPad, the media nailed it.

The new iPad (not the iPad 3 or iPad HD) looks and feels much like the iPad 2. It's 0.6 millimetres thicker and 51 grams heavier — hardly noticeable. The easiest way to tell the difference is by looking at the screen.

Apple calls it the Retina display, because it's nearly impossible to pick out individual pixels with the naked eye. The new iPad has four times the number of pixels than the iPad 2, with 264 pixels per square inch. This means it has one million more pixels than the high-definition TV in your living room. Text is much clearer and easier to read. Graphics also look smooth and polished.

The enhanced graphics are made possible by Apple's new A5X processor. The chip allows for quad-core graphics, double the performance of the iPad 2. Those who love to play games will see the value in the chip.

One of my biggest disappointments with the iPad 2 was the camera quality. Apple says it has listened to customer feedback and decided to change the cameras.

The rear of the new iPad will feature a new five-megapixel iSight camera with auto focus, face detection and auto white balance. It will also have the ability to record 1080p HD video at 30 frames per second. The front camera remains VGA-quality, which may disappoint some.

The last feature is the ability to download and surf the web faster, supporting 4G and LTE. The new iPad will be available March 16, starting at $519.

Apple CEO Tim Cook introduces the new iPad in San Francisco on Wednesday.
PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TRAVELLING AMONG THE BLUFFS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Backpackers must never show weakness.

When trekking through foreign lands, as I plan to in September, you must make it clear to fellow adventurers that you have travelled much farther, experienced far more and appreciated it all on a far deeper level than they could ever know.

Furthermore, you must make it clear that, though your experiences would thrill and delight the average middle-of-the-pack backpacker, to you it was a bit of a bore.

If a fellow traveller saw the village church, you went inside and had a spiritual moment. If he went bungee jumping, you went skydiving. If he climbed Mount Everest, you reached the summit with a really tall Sherpa and then stood on his shoulders.

Of course, we're all bluffing, and couldn't imagine a weekend without beer, let alone a few days without water. But all backpackers do this. It's just the way things are done.

It's been several years since I went backpacking, but these primal truths came rushing back to me this week as a salesman showed me some of the camping gear I'd need.

Immediately, instinctively, I began bluffing. The salesman said, "This is a Hybrid EC tent with bulfable tarmac eco-stretch and composite MoldProtect fibre, of course." And I said, "Of course," furrowing my brow in a way that I hoped conveyed world-class knowledge of tent construction, when I was actually thinking, "How come people only say 'of course' when you have no idea what they're talking about?"

If I'd shown my ignorance, I could have lost my backpacker cred, had my hostel card ripped up and been stripped of my blister strips.

I know it makes me seem like a fool, but it's the same in hostels worldwide. So don't feel guilty, fellow bluffers.

Condescending tone aside ...

If we were to talk about how scared we were on our journeys, or how ill-prepared, or how we really just spent the last week going to bars, ogling women and demonstrating the medicinal powers of cheap whiskey, well, the whole backpacking system would fall apart.

If we were to talk about how scared we were on our journeys, or how ill-prepared, or how we really just spent the last week going to bars, ogling women and demonstrating the medicinal powers of cheap whiskey, well, the whole backpacking system would fall apart.

We'd lose the sense of competition. The lure of travel would cease. And, before long, we'd all be staying home.

Potential backpackers would instead be stuck going to neighbourhood bars, ogling women and drinking whiskey. And, let's face it, that's really kind of pathetic.

So remember, the important thing is to share your stories and listen to your fellow travellers, speaking in a condescending tone one might use with a clever dog. "Oh, you went THERE. Good for YOU. That's really GREAT."

And, barring that, just remember the greatest travel quote ever, as penned by novelist Robert L. Coburg. I'd rehash it here, but you know what it is. Of course.

One unwritten rule of the backpackers' road: bluff. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The female Arnolds

MARTIN SCHOELLER/WWW.PONDPRESS.COM

The women

Online buzz for bodybuilders

NEW YORK. German-born, N.Y.C.-based photographer Martin Schoeller shot the ladies of the Olympia bodybuilding competitions years ago, for a book.

But this week, they went viral. "I wanted to get behind the bodybuilder's mask, behind the profession and bring out the person beneath everything," he says. **MWN**

Generating

"These were women who loved what they were doing, and they were willing to work at it."
Martin Schoeller
N.Y.C.-based photographer

Online

Why people forwarded it ...

NEW YORK. Hot aggregation sites like buzzfeed.com are on constant lookout for photo essays of the weird and wonderful.

These photos got thousands of hits there and on the Huffington Post for the same reason Schoeller started the project. "I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone possibly want to look like that?'" he says. **MWN**

Criticism

... and why people got mean

NEW YORK. Though Schoeller is grateful that the project is getting attention almost four years after publication, he was especially shocked by negative comments online.

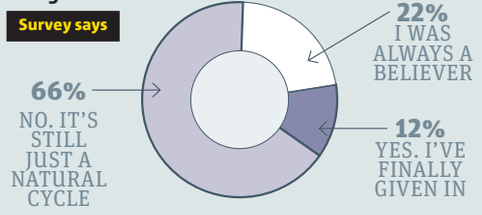
"People were hateful to these women. I knew there would be controversy, but I didn't expect that. Our notions of what is beautiful are so narrow." **MWN**

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Has the mild winter made you believe in climate change?

Survey says



Twitter

@ellenwoodsworth: #BCTF says #Bill 22 will contrevene the law. Govmt has been taken to ILO 10 times. Each time found in contravention of International Law.

@MikeMartignago: Lionel Messi scores 5 goals and someone in Barcelona is celebrating a million dollars thanks to Safeway Score & Win.

@PMeisznerGlobal: "The likelihood of this gov't surviving til June 2013 resembles the proverbial snowflake in hell," says Susan Lambert at teachers' rally.

@AndreaWoo: Saw protester holding a sign calling education minister "George Bobbitt" – because of the cuts. I see what you did there. #bced

@bctf: Bill 22 wd fine BCTF $1.3 million daily. Langley mushroom farm fined $350,000 for 3 worker deaths 2 brain injured. Balanced? #bcpoli #bced

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The Paperboys are among the bands performing as part of this year's CelticFest. SUBMITTED

Bring on the step dancing, whisky and green top hats

CelticFest. This year's St. Patrick's Day festivities promise tons of entertainment and family-friendly fun

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

It's that time of year again. You know, the time when the media starts whipping out its leprechaun-shaped-cookie-cutter puns and other green-tinged phrases in preparation for St. Patrick's Day.

You know the ones: When Irish eyes are smiling. Luck o' the Irish. Everything's gone green. And up yer Celts!

Okay, so I pulled the last one out of my own personal Shamrock Collection that I keep stored next to the custom Guinness tap in my loft, but then, I'm part Irish.

Then again, isn't everyone at this time of year?

And while many will celebrate this day by hoisting handfuls of Irish-themed bevies, others will take in CelticFest, which runs from March 10 to 18 at various venues in downtown Vancouver.

Some will do both. To them I say: Is cuma le fear na mbróg cá gcuireann sé a chos. (I think that means the man with boots does not have to worry about where to put his feet. Though it's tough to be sure.)

The point is, being prepared pays off. It's best to pace yourself, as there's much to do — tons of entertainment and oodles of family-friendly fun. In fact, this year's festival features more than 50 free and ticketed Celtic performances and events spread over six days.

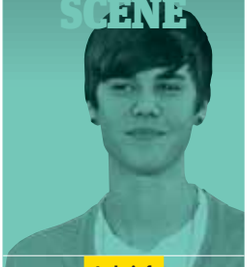
Highlights include a "welcome back" performance by CelticFest-faves Delhi 2 Dublin at the Vogue, as well as an annual whisky tasting, music workshops, step dancers, fiddlers and more. Also, the Weekend Celtic Village returns to Granville Street next weekend. It features food, fare, artisans and many, many shiny green top hats.

And, of course, it all culminates with the 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18 (that's next weekend), which kicks off from Howe and Drake streets at 11 a.m. CelticFest starts Saturday. Visit CelticFestVancouver.com for more information.

What's happening

- **An evening with Primus.** The band, not the phone company. It all goes down June 15 at the Orpheum. Tickets, $39.50 and $55, go on sale Friday at 10 a.m.
- **No Shadow of a doubt.** DJ Shadow performs at the Commodore with guests on April 24. Tickets, $29.50, go on sale Friday at 10 a.m.

2 SCENE



In brief

Bieber's mom gets book deal

Justin Bieber's mom is going to get the chance to tell her version of the story of her son's rise to pop superstardom. Pattie Mallette has signed a deal with Revell Books to publish her memoir. Nowhere But Up: The Story of Justin Bieber's Mom is slated for release Sept. 18, and will include a foreward written by Bieber himself.

On the Web

Calling TV stupid makes you seem smart. Why does TV still invite disrespect?

Fran Drescher's real life inspires oddball sitcom

Happily Divorced. Series based on comedian's offscreen divorce to Hollywood ex-husband

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro World News in New York

In the penultimate episode of Happily Divorced last season, Fran Drescher's character sleeps with her ex-husband, who in the pilot episode came out of the closet.

As the comedy series is based on Drescher's own life, we had to ask: was that rendezvous inspired by true events?

"No, once we divorced we never got drunk and had sex," she says of her ex, Peter Marc Jacobson, adding her trademark laugh.

Though their romantic relationship ended after 21 years of marriage, the two, who co-created the 90s hit television show The Nanny, still maintain a close bond.

They are now working together on the second season of Happily Divorced, which premiered its new season this week.

Drescher tells Metro World News that we'll see her character, also coincidentally named Fran, finding herself "more and more as an independent single woman" and also get introduced to some secondary characters.

"We're gonna meet some of [the character] Peter's family," Drescher says. "Peter's got a brother, [which] was how I actually met my ex — I met the brother first, and we were supposed to go out and then he couldn't go, so he asked if Peter could take me on the date. And then Peter and I ended up falling in love. But now, all these years later, Peter comes out to his brother, and his brother's now divorced, and we're divorced, so he asks me out on a date [on the show]." Drescher says.

We'll also meet Fran's loving parents, as well as see more of her best friend Judi: "she's got a lot more to do in this season."

And while the show is a comedy, deeper feelings and life lessons are at the crux of it.

"The shows themselves are coming out so good and so funny and so full of pathos and healing and laughter," Drescher says of the series' cathartic qualities. "We're very proud of this second season."

No canned laughs

Fran Drescher takes a unique approach to her laugh-out-loud sitcom, Happily Divorced.

- **Like The Nanny,** Happily Divorced is filmed in front of a live studio audience. Drescher wouldn't have it any other way.
- **"I think with a comedy,** it's nice to hear the laughs. It helps bring the energy up," Drescher says. "You feel the energy of the audience and their laughter. And that really helps the show have a performance level that seems to work well and get the home viewers energized."

Fran Drescher GETTY IMAGES

TV. GCB brings Southern sass and big hair to the small screen

AMBER RAY
Metro World News in New York

Leslie Bibb HANDOUT PHOTO

Despite the saying, you can go home again — especially if your swindling financier husband dies in a freak accident with his mistress, leaving you with absolutely nothing. In that case, things are different.

Really different, actually, as former mean girl Amanda Vaughn learns when she moves with her kids into the house of her Dallas socialite mother in the new soap GCB, which premiered Sunday night on CTV.

Played with plucky resolve by Leslie Bibb, Amanda finds the queen bee crown she once wore usurped by a former rival (Kristin Chenoweth), who is now hell-bent on exacting revenge.

"She was pretty horrific," Bibb says of her character. "High school is … like a shark tank. She's now looking at everything being slapped in her face, [people] saying, 'You were awful. You did this. You did this.' So it's a constant realization of what she used to be."

How Amanda will convince her former classmates that she's changed in the last 20 years is where the juicy drama of GCB lies.

"Every human being has a moment of being bitchy," Bibb says. "I think when a woman's a bitch, usually it's based on being scared — they're scared of the mirror that they're seeing. What ends up happening on the show is we all sort of test each other. We all set each other off, and so I think everyone has a really beautiful, delicious moment of being bitchy and then a beautiful, great moment of sort of redemption — and then they're a bitch again and we're nice again."

GCB what?

GCB stands for Good Christian Bitches — the title of the Kim Gatlin book on which the series is based.

- **"The term GCB** is a phrase that these women in Texas refer to themselves as, you know, it's their own phrase," executive producer Robert Harling reasons. The term, he says, is not meant to offend.
- **"The characters … are all motivated** by a real sense of goodness," says Harling, who wrote about another group of strong-willed Southern women in Steel Magnolias. "The goal is to watch people try to be good. I know I screw up all the time. And sometimes it's funny. Sometimes it's sad. … But within those parameters, we will never ever, ever be disrespectful."

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VVS FILMS GAP

Drinking while pregnant? Meatball problems

Snooki GETTY IMAGES

Jersey Shore star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi has taken to the cover of Us Weekly to announce what everyone already knew: that she's pregnant and engaged.

"I have different priorities now," Polizzi says. "I don't care what anybody else thinks. As long as I know I'm ready and (fiancé Jionni LaValle) is ready." The reality star admits that discovery of her pregnancy — right after New Year's — caused a moment of panic. Her first thought? "'S—, I've been drinking,'" she says.

"I was worried. It was New Year's Eve and we were in Vegas, so I did go crazy." METRO

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Fashion magazine covers

Doin' the bump

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

As a fellow pregnant lady, I'm all for Jessica Simpson posing on the cover of Elle magazine while hoisting around a fetus. Yay for the miracle of life and all that.

But why oh why did she have to do it naked?

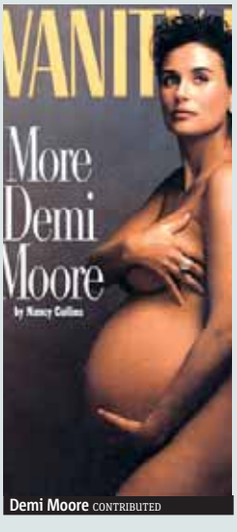
With the exception of Demi Moore's famous 1991 nude pregnancy photo for Vanity Fair, which set the bar for pregnancy photo shoots, why have any of these stars shown off their naked bellies on magazine covers?

It's as though these magazines — and starlets — need to flaunt the skin, just so you won't mistake them for being, well, fat.

Because a woman with actual curves on a fashion magazine? What a crazy concept!

But perhaps I'm wrong and am just being a prude. What do you think of the omnipresent naked pregnant celebrity cover trend? Do you want more naked bump in your life or do you prefer your pregnant celebrities lookin' good, but with maybe a shirt on?

Jessica Simpson CONTRIBUTED



Demi Moore CONTRIBUTED

Hewitt likes her boobs

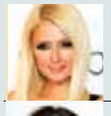
Jennifer Love Hewitt has something in common with her fans when it comes to appreciating certain parts of her anatomy.

"It's horrible to say, but I like my boobs," the former Ghost Whisperer star tells Maxim magazine when asked what body part she is most proud of.

"They've always served me well. They're good." Well, maybe they haven't served her that well recently, the currently single Hewitt admits: "It might sound so stupid, but guys do not hit on me," she says. "I'm not really sure why." METRO

Jennifer Love Hewitt GETTY IMAGES

Twitter


@ParisHilton
Don't judge me by my past, I don't live there anymore.

@nicolerichie
No grandma, I don't think you're ready for bikini season

@pattonoswalt
Just realized I know all the words to Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know?" Closest I'll ever come to being Jason Bourne.

@AlbertBrooks
If I were president I would allow poor people to drink 1% milk.

Ricci talks about adversity

Christina Ricci reveals that her teenage struggle with anorexia — and the unplanned revelation of it at the time — helped make her the person she is today. "Somebody actually found out about it and outed (me) while I was recovering," she tells Marie Clare magazine. "It was a horrifying thing to do to a 14-year-old trying to cope with a devastating illness. And, out of rage, I vowed that no one would ever be able to out me for a secret again. So I was going to be completely honest in the rest of my life. I don't want to be hurt in that way again." As for the eating disorder itself, Ricci says the pressures of being an actress at that age had a lot to do with it. "I think it's just really awkward to go through puberty, and go through growing up and becoming a woman, when everybody is always kind of looking at you," she says. METRO

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3 LIFE

Fashion at your front door

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Founded in Germany, GLOSSYBOX is a monthly subscription beauty service that is making its Canadian debut. Each month, members receive five luxury cosmetics wrapped in the company's signature powder-pink box. At $15 a month, GLOSSYBOX provides its clients with new beauty trends and products and a fashionable way to store their ever-growing beauty collection.

Find out more at glossybox.ca.

On the Web

Chanel, Alexander McQueen entice fantasy of ice and feathers at Paris ready-to-wear shows.

It had been a rainy season in the city of lights, and inside the packed houses of Paris Fashion Week style continued to take front-line fashionistas by storm

KENYA HUNT AND RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

5 shows that rocked the Paris runways

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1

Givenchy

Riccardo Tisci's show, always one of the most hotly anticipated on the Paris calendar, didn't disappoint with a collection inspired by the equestrian world and the '70s work of photographer Guy Bourdin.

Forget the sexless tweedy hunting set; Tisci's horsey theme was racy with an S&M sensibility.

2

Louis Vuitton

Marc Jacobs chose to summon up a bygone era of luxury travel for his Louis Vuitton show. The large, flamboyant hats were back, only slightly more refined. Same with the embroidered jackets, dresses and coats that the models wore layered over long skirts and wide, cropped pants. Unconventional, yes. But don't be surprised to see outsize layers trickling down to the high street come next season.

3

Yves Saint Laurent

Stefano Pilati bade farewell to the infamous Parisian fashion house after a 10-year tenure.

There were no tears, just a collection of chic, predominantly black silhouettes that referenced the house's '70s and '80s eras. The macabre colour palette, cinched waists, sizeable lapels, wide shoulders and sharp tailoring marked what could be regarded as a somber day for Pilati.

However, the leather tunic tops, trousers and chainmail dresses redolent of strength and resilience were lightened in mood with the introduction of an embroidered calla lily.

4

Kenzo

It's no easy task to impress hundreds of soggy, cranky fashion editors who schlepped through the rain to a far-out part of Paris to see a 15-minute show.

But that's what Humberto Leon and Carol Lim did for their second collection as creative directors of Kenzo.

The collection was just as fun as the show experience itself, featuring clothes that struck the right balance between creative, original and wearable. There were tailored and knit separates in autumnal florals and grapes; silk jumpsuits in vaguely Asian silhouettes; skirt and trouser suits in a mash-up of graphic combos — the list goes on.

5

Barbara Bui

Barbara Bui referenced Asia in a series of silk dresses and jackets that came printed or embroidered with Chinese tigers and florals. Nothing was quite as memorable as the androgynous trouser suits she did in black and white for evening that opened the show. They were chic and simple and best showed off her knack for cutting a mean pair of pants, a talent women the world over seek her out for.

STOREY WILKINS

JEANNE & HER GIRLS

To mark International Women's Day, journalist Brigitte Noel spent time speaking to Metro columnist Jeanne Beker and her daughters, Joey and Bekky, about feminism, motherhood, role models and more...

HAVING IT ALL IN HEELS

On feminism:

Jeanne: To me that whole idea of feminism, while it was such a godsend when we first caught wind of it or first started to really champion it in the '60s when I was growing up, now seems a little old-fashioned. Although, I'm not sure — what do you guys feel about that?"

Bekky: I think feminism is a very dangerous thing to define because the second you do, you start aggravating people who don't agree with your definition of it. (…) I don't know if it's a matter of feminism so much as recognizing the humanity of the person regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Jeanne: I remember when I was even a bit younger than my girls are now and I was going to university or college and reading Germaine Greer's works, Gloria Steinem. (…) Everybody was just reading these works about (feminism) and what it meant, and how we had to start thinking. Then all of a sudden it just became part of the way I saw the world and part of my psyche and I would hope part of my whole generation's psyche.

On women's rights:

Bekky: It's always necessary to fight for whatever rights you can. I think that we have to defend ourselves. When people aren't paying attention to what their rights are, their rights are taken away from them. We're very fortunate to be living in Canada where (human rights) are less of an issue than in other parts of the world, but I think that gay rights and queer rights and trans rights and rights of these even more marginalized groups than women are what come to mind as being more important to fight for nowadays.

Jeanne: And we have special rights too. When I think of how, when I decided to have a baby all those years ago, there was no such thing as a year of mat leave. Now it's thrilling that women have that option today — they certainly did not have it 20-odd years ago when I was having my kids.

Lessons from motherhood:

Jeanne: I've learned that it's important to be very open-minded. I was a pretty open-minded individual but you have to be even more open-minded. I feel I'm still learning not to be quick to judge, more tolerant. I think my kids just teach me to be a better person because they've taught me a lot about unconditional love and the necessity of encouraging people to blaze their own trails and not follow in footsteps. The number one question that I absolutely detest is when people ask if my daughters are following my footsteps. What do you think, I've raised a couple of followers, I've raised a couple of wimps? Without question, my daughters are blazing their own trails as I feel that I did and would never want them to just be a second act in that way. They're an opening act for their own generation and hopefully one day maybe their own families.

On the Kardashians:

Jeanne: Oooooohh!

Joey: I don't know who they are?

Jeanne: We don't watch them at our house. We don't allow that.

Advice to women:

Bekky: Read books by women. (…) Figure out who you are and be proud of it. I think so many girls want to be someone else because it's easier and I think that denying the things you love is dangerous. Embrace what you need out of life.

Jeanne: I'd say go for it, be fearless, be tenacious, and to thine own self be true. Dream big, but work hard, and never give up.

Bekky: Always carry a pair of flats in your purse!

Jeanne: I never do!

Joey: I gave you those flats to carry and you put them in the basement!

Jeanne: The ones in my stocking? Were those from you?

Joey: Yes!!

Jeanne: I thought they were from Santa. I was looking for them, I'll take them to Paris.

Hotel chic

Decor ideas. Karl Lohnes creates a stylish bedroom inspired by the Loden hotel in Vancouver.

The caramel, brown and coral colour scheme and clean-lined furnishings evoke a warm but modern look at the Loden. THELODEN.COM

I often come home from my travels with memories of the decorating details from some exceptional hotels I stay at. No matter where I travel I always fall in love with a detail, colour or furniture style that I want to incorporate into my own home's decor.

All hotels set out to create unique visual experiences for their guests and Vancouver's Loden hotel is no exception.

Tucked in the distinguished Coal Harbour Neighbourhood; the 77-room luxury hotel opened its doors in 2008 and has been winning awards for its customer service and great looks ever since. Its warm and inviting colours and style creates an atmosphere that definitely says urban on a human scale; something even trendy travellers appreciate when away from the comforts of home. I love their surprising use of the colour orange; long before it was ever trendy.

The wood-toned walls wrap guest rooms in a warm glow, which is a great colour choice for Vancouver's grey days. For a similar look, paint your walls a deep caramel colour (Benjamin Moore's Capilano Bridge CC-440 is a great match) or cover them with a paintable wood textured wallpaper to introduce the woodgrain colour and element.

The mirrored wall behind the bed reflects light from the window and keeps the room feeling open and airy. Try standing two tall floor mirrors behind each night stand to achieve a similar effect in your own room. The patterned carpet (a great decorating trick of most hotel rooms) not only camouflages wear but also adds a warm texture to the room. Carpet tiles are a great way to add a pattern to your floor without costing a lot; or better yet, place decorative carpet runners down each side of the bed to warm up your space and add some texture to the room.

The simple shapes of the bed, nightstands and lamps give the room a modern edge. With the mid-century modern look on the return, you might want to search a few trendy classifieds (like craigslist or Kijiji) for good buys. Otherwise, invest in one or two good pieces that you know you will love for a long time.

A burst of colour (coral is the accent colour of choice at the Loden Hotel) can be changed seasonally to follow trends or incorporate a new colour as desired. The secret to colour is to use it in things that can easily be changed out seasonally; pillows, a vase or lampshades are an inexpensive way to indulge in trendy colours.

WOULD YOU DECORATE YOUR BEDROOM WITH THE LODEN LOOK? DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE HOTEL DECOR THAT YOU'D LIKE US TO SHARE? WE WANT TO KNOW! EMAIL US AT HOME@METRONEWS.CA.

Square details and quality metal trims make this nightstand a ringer. Nightstand 7882, $6,105, Baker Furniture. STUDIOHOME.COM

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

For a curvy and elegant bedside lamp, try the Haley Table Lamp, $335, Crate & Barrel. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Paintable textured wallpaper can be any shade of caramel to get the hotel look. Textured Subway Wallpaper, $30, Graham and Brown. GRAHAMBROWN.COM

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Charles the butler

Stop leaking money

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the butler, My Whirlpool washing machine is leaking a little bit. It happens in the front of the machine. It starts leaking when it starts to fill with water. It's not much but I am scared it could get worse. Also, the dryer, which is on top of the washer, is not drying clothes even if I set it to high temperature. Please let me know what you think of these issues. Will they be costly to repair? Thanks for your help, Renuka

Dear Renuka,

Any leak from a washing machine has to be corrected. I guess because you talk about the leak coming from the front, it must be the rubber seal or gasket around the door. Regardless of what this will cost to fix, it is imperative that you have it looked at ASAP, because whatever it costs to repair this problem, it will be 100 times less expensive than a catastrophic leak.

Now regarding your dryer. Though I'm not a repairman I would suspect you have one of two problems: either the exhaust needs to be cleaned or the unit is simply not heating correctly due to a mechanical problem.

Either of these problems will stop the machine from having the ability to dry clothes. Rather than wasting costly electricity, my advice is to have a certified Whirlpool repairman come to the house to assess and repair the problem.

Good luck and let us know how it turns out!

SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 23 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

This ain't your grandma's wallpaper, baby

Old made new.
Wallpaper isn't just something you change on your cellphone every other day. Stick some on your wall too.

CHRISTINA WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Forget everything you already know about wallpaper, because it's no longer a stuffy, dated eyesore from the '70s.

Top designers, including Back Bay interior designer Allison Sheffield, are using it in creative new ways to breathe fresh life into the historically staid wall covering.

Sheffield spoke with Metro about new trends, the best rooms to use wallpaper in and how to decorate without breaking the bank.

A little goes a long way

"Doing one wall seems less daunting, or using it in a powder room is [very impactful]. It doesn't take a lot of expensive paper to make a big impact."

Back Bay interior designer Allison Sheffield

1. The first step in using wallpaper in your home is realizing it doesn't have to be a permanent commitment, says Sheffield.

"I grew up with a mom who knew how to wallpaper. I never saw it as permanent."

2. Ease yourself into it by focusing on a small room, such as a powder room, or an accent wall.

"Doing one wall seems less daunting, or using it in a powder room is [very impactful]. It doesn't take a lot of expensive paper to make a big impact."

Wallpapering an accent wall can take the place of an expensive piece of art to draw the eye to a focal point in the room, says Sheffield. Wallpapering a ceiling is also an option, she says.

"Wallpapering the ceiling in a powder room makes it seem like you are walking into a jewel box."

3. Scraps of wallpaper can be used to line bookshelves or to highlight mouldings or woodwork.

If you're still not convinced, many reputable companies are now selling removable wallpaper people can easily hang themselves without the help of a professional.

Are you a decor commitment phobic? Try removable wallpaper. ISTOCK

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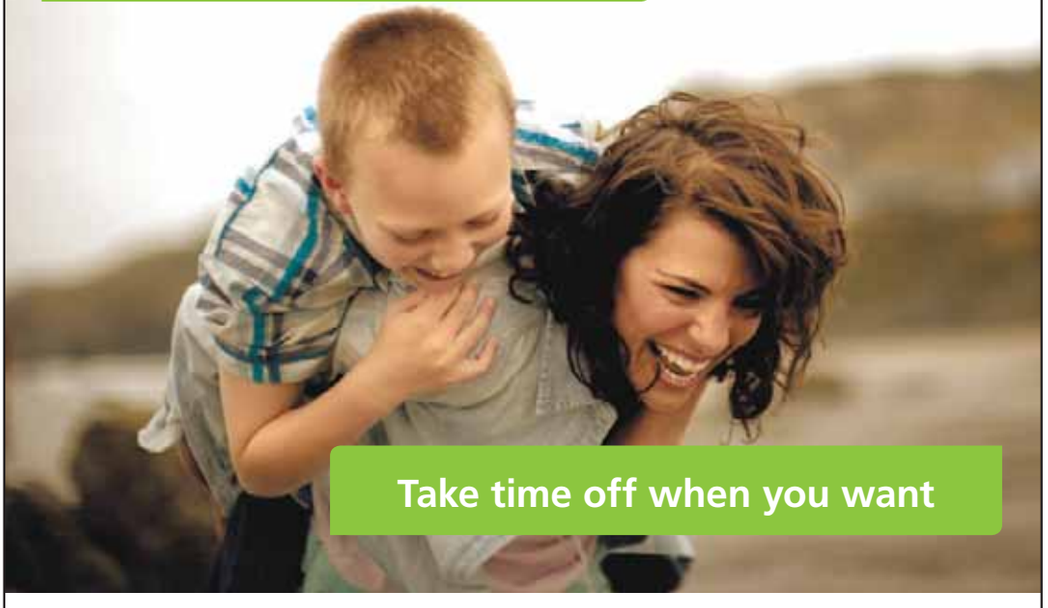

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Making classic butter chicken is easier than you may think

Butter chicken is an Indian staple that has become popular in North America.

Ingredients

4 portions
Preparation: 20 minutes
Cooking: 40 minutes

- 2 lbs. (1 kg) boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 3 tablespoons (45 ml) tandoori masala
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) garlic ginger paste
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) plain yogurt
- 3 (14-ounce/398 ml) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) garam masala
- 1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) paprika
- 1 cup (250 ml) light cream (20%)
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) grated palm sugar or soft brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons (45 ml) chilled ghee
- ½ teaspoon (2 ml) salt
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) chopped fresh cilantro

However, many people are intimated by what goes into making the delicious dish.

In her book, My Cooking Class Indian Basics, Jody Vassallo offers this step-by-step version to make it simple.

The dish is very rich so you may want to leave out the ghee at the end if you would like to reduce the amount of fat. You can also marinate the chicken overnight for a more intense flavour. Make sure you grill the chicken until it blackens slightly, Vassallo advises.

This recipe serves four. JAMES LYNDSAY, FIREFLY BOOKS 2011

1 Preheat a grill. Put the chicken in a bowl, add the tandoori masala, garlic-ginger paste and yogurt and mix well, until the chicken is coated.

2 Arrange the chicken in a shallow baking dish and cook under the hot grill until tender.

3 Remove the chicken from the dish and set aside.

4 Pour the juices from the baking dish into a pan and add the tomatoes, garam masala, paprika, cream and sugar.

5 Bring the mixture to a boil and cook over high heat for 10 minutes, until the sauce is thick and creamy. Add the cooked chicken, the ghee and salt and simmer for 3 minutes, until the ghee melts and the chicken is heated through.

6 Sprinkle the cilantro on top and serve with lime wedges and freshly cooked rice. RECIPE USED WITH PERMISSION FROM INDIAN BASICS: 82 RECIPES ILLUSTRATED STEP BY STEP BY JODY VASSALLO; FIREFLY BOOKS 2011 ($24.95 PAPERBACK)

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Make the most of your break

ASTRID
VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Ideas. Keep your kids busy with a variety of fresh activities during your week off

Maybe stage cupcake wars by inviting your child's friends over. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Looking to shake things up this March break? If you are looking for fresh ideas on what to do with the kids this coming week, here are six activities to try.

COOK TOGETHER

Improvise dinner by grabbing a globe. No, really. Spin it, select a country and make a dish together from that country.

"So with your children you search for recipes, shop and cook the meal together," says Tracie Wagman, the Toronto-based publisher of Help! We've Got Kids.

Or Wagman suggests staging some cupcake wars: Invite your child's friends over and divide the group into two teams.

Each team decides on what type of cupcake to make, and decorates it and judges determine the winner.

TEAM UP

Melanie Rose, a Toronto-based mom of two children, has connected with three other mothers to create "Mommy Camp." "Each mom takes all three girls for one day and we spend the last day as a group. Each day we exposed the girls to different experiences chosen by the day's mom," she says. "Last year's highlights included yoga in the park, a visit to the textile museum, pedicures and painting with chocolate."

GET OUTSIDE

"If the weather's nice, I like taking my kids to parks or zoos," says Wagman. But make it interesting and bypass the park you hit all summer. "Go on the Internet and pick one with the kids. Then you map it out together and explore," suggests Wagman.

THINK CHARITABLY

If you have older children, get them to declutter their stuff. But make it fun. If you have reluctant donators on your hands, you could offer them a trade: 10 of their toys to donate for one new one, says Wagman.

Or you could help your child organize a toy drive in the neighbourhood. Invite friends and neighbours to collect items that you and your child can help organize and donate to a charitable organization they choose.

TAKE ADVANTAGE ...

... of deals you can't normally score during the weekday. March break tends to feature lots of local theatre shows and afternoon movie showings at cheaper matinee prices.

CREATE YOUR OWN REALITY SHOW

If you have a Nintendo Wii system or an Xbox, fire up your dance-themed video games to stage your own So You Think You Can Dance, suggests Wagman. Invite your children's friends over to compete in the dance games, complete with judges ranking the dancers.

No reason for kids to be bored

Are you looking forward to March break? Chances are your child will say a definitive "Yes!" especially if they are off to a sunny destination. But if you are a parent stuck with no plans and a limited budget, figuring out how to entertain the little ones for a week or two can be exhausting. Here are some ideas to kick-start your March break plans:

Go on a mini road trip. Visit a town that you are not familiar with and spend time walking around, taking in the sights, dining at local eateries, and meeting the people. It will be a refreshing change of pace and scenery for your family.

Visit your library. Your local library is a great resource for free family entertainment. Pick up a book to learn some arts and crafts, research fun recipes, borrow kid-friendly DVDs, or check if the library is running any special March break programs.

Kid swap. If your friend's kids are also stuck in town, arrange to watch them along with your own kids and then swap the next day. That way you can get some much needed rest and relaxation.

Board games. Remember what those are? Playing a board game is a great way to spend time together as a family and have face time. If your collection doesn't intrigue your kids, purchase a new game on which everyone can agree.

Give to a good cause. Serve others at a local food bank, soup kitchen, or seniors home. You can also donate to an organization like Christian Children's Fund of Canada (ccfcanada.ca), and help provide children in developing countries.

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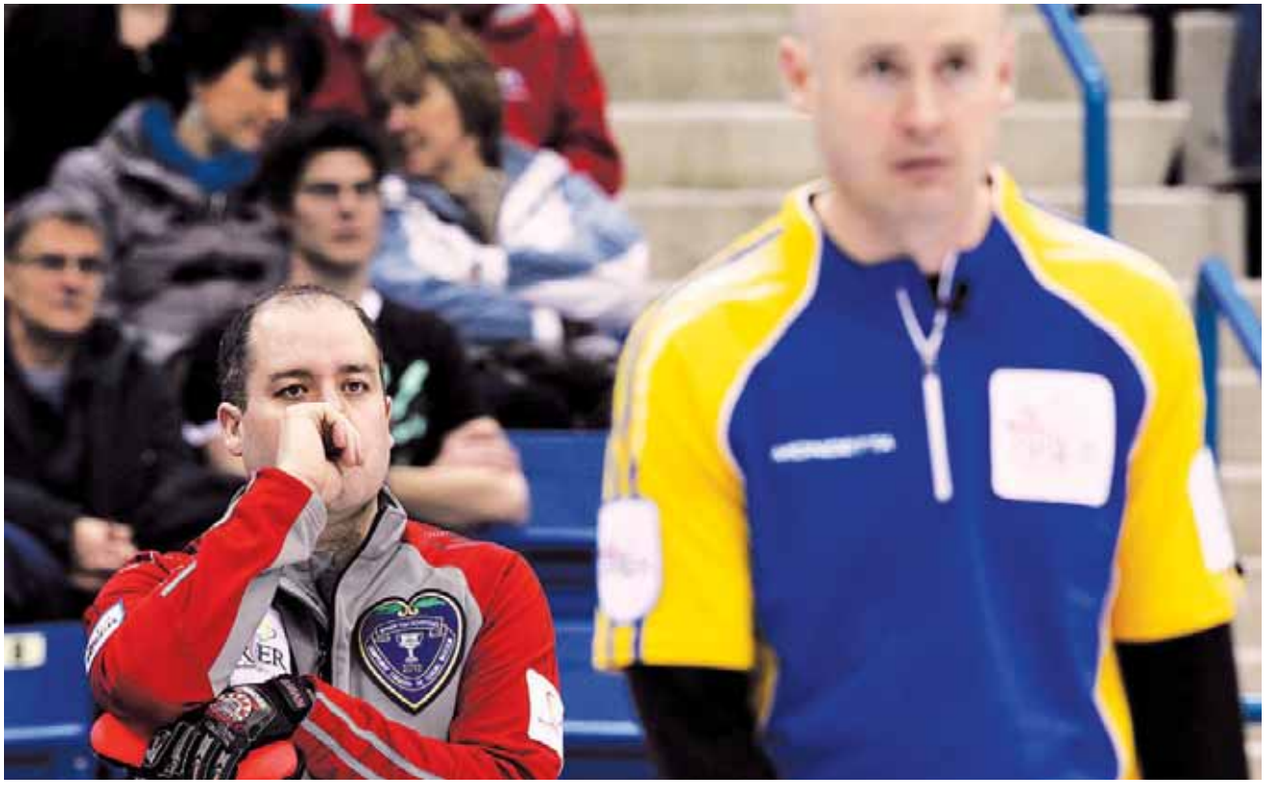
SPORTS

Canucks preview

Winnipeg at Vancouver, 7 p.m. (Sportsnet Pacific)

The Canucks (41-18-8) host the Jets (32-27-8), who are within two points of the Southeast Division-leading Florida Panthers. Vancouver has won one of its last five games. After allowing three goals in the first five minutes of a 5-3 loss to Buffalo last Saturday, Roberto Luongo allowed four goals on 28 shots in a 5-2 loss to Dallas on Tuesday. Bryan Little has 11 points in the last eight games. Evander Kane has 14 points in the last nine games. Henrik and Daniel Sedin have combined for one point in their last six games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alberta the easy winner in battle of Koe brothers

Yukon and Northwest Territories skip Jamie Koe, left, looks on as brother and Alberta skip Kevin Koe lines up a shot on Wednesday morning at the Tim Hortons Brier in Saskatoon. Kevin thumped his younger brother 11-3. The Territories (5-4) made it three losses in a row later in the day, losing to Manitoba's Rob Fowler 10-5. Manitoba (6-3) was victorious over Alberta (7-2) in a late match, but Alberta still has a chance to catch Ontario (8-1) for the top spot. Ontario and Alberta meet in the final round-robin draw Thursday.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is the West getting short shrift?

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Edward Fraser
vancouver@metronews.ca

At The Hockey News offices we hear a lot about how there's bias in the media's coverage of the Western Conference, specifically West Coast teams.

In fact, a recent THN feature exploring the reasons why the Canucks are disrespected and how they should embrace their villainous image received responses suggesting we were hating on the hate. Can't win for trying, eh?

But those Canucks fans who insist their team is treated like the dirty stepchild should save a little of their vitriol for the players and GMs as well.

Since the league expanded to 21 teams in 1979-80, the Hart Trophy for NHL MVP has gone to a player in the West 18 times versus 13 times to the East (including the past two years — Corey Perry and Daniel Sedin). The Norris Trophy for best defenceman is a 17-14 difference in favour of the West, while the Calder Trophy for top rookie is 17-14 East.

In total, that's 53 per cent for the West. These three honours are voted on by members of the media (the Professional Hockey Writers Association).

The Vezina Trophy for best goaltender, meanwhile, has been voted upon by the league's GMs since 1982 and during that span the award has gone to Western Conference keepers a mere four times, compared to 25 for their Eastern counterparts. That's 86 per cent East.

Hmm.

More recently, for the March 19 issue The Hockey News asked 150 NHLers to name the five best current players not on their team. Two Canucks made the Top 50: No. 9 Daniel and No. 11 Henrik Sedin. (Ironically, the pair are split by nemesis Zdeno Chara in 10th.)

But what of Roberto Luongo, he of a 20-7-6 record with a 2.18 goals-against average and .927 save percentage since Dec. 1, an Olympic gold medal in 2010 and coming one win short of a Stanley Cup ring less than nine months ago? Zero votes. Ryan Kesler, fresh off of a Selke Trophy win? Bupkis. Alex Edler, fourth in scoring among blue-liners? Nil.

Sixty-eight players received votes in the players' poll and not a single one went to either of these three. (The last time THN selected its Top 50, in the 2010-11 Yearbook, we slotted Luongo at No. 30 and Kesler at 31.)

Maybe there's bias against the bias?

NFL

Colts release Manning after 14 years

Colts owner Jim Irsay says the team is releasing quarterback Peyton Manning after a 14-year run that included one Super Bowl title and four MVP awards.

Irsay and Manning appeared together Wednesday at a news conference to announce the move.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Messi makes scoring history

Lionel Messi took his scoring prowess to yet another level on Wednesday, becoming the first player to net five goals in a Champions League game as Barcelona thrashed Bayer Leverkusen 7-1 Wednesday to ease into the quarter-finals.

The 24-year-old Messi took his overall season tally to 48 goals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Lupul, Armstrong out for Leafs

Toronto Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul will be sidelined for three to four weeks with a separated shoulder.

Lupul was injured on a hit from David Krejci in Tuesday's 5-4 loss to the Boston Bruins. Colby Armstrong was also injured in the game, breaking his nose in a fight with Dennis Seidenberg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Darvish fans three in debut

Yu Darvish struck out three in two scoreless innings and made a run-saving play in his spring training debut during the Texas Rangers' 6-2 win over a split squad of San Diego Padres on Wednesday.

Pitching exclusively out of the stretch, Darvish threw 36 pitches, 26 for strikes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

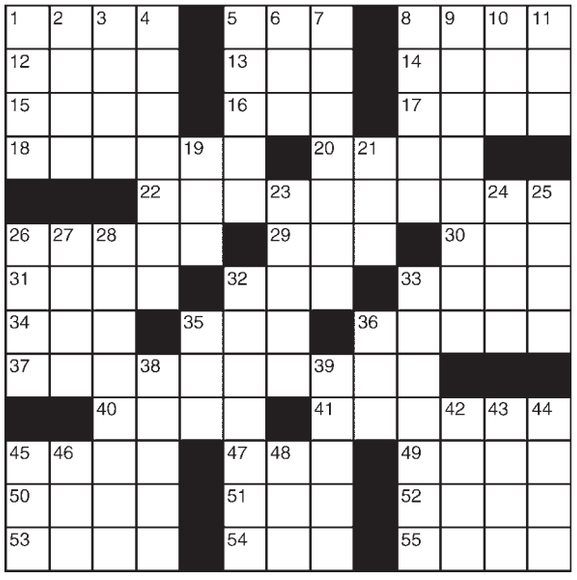
Raptors beat Rockets

DeMar DeRozan poured in 23 points as the Toronto Raptors rode a rare offensive outburst to a 116-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

Linas Kleiza added 19 points while Jose Calderon had 17 points and 12 assists for the Raptors (13-26), who wrapped up a 2-2 homestand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crossword



Across

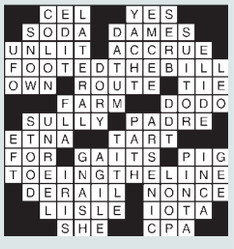
1 Paddock papa
5 Rotating part
8 Lateen-rigged boat
12 Mideastern gulf
13 "The Greatest"
14 Architect Saarinen
15 Paper quantity
16 Under the weather
17 George Herman Ruth
18 Damage
20 Praise highly
22 Conclusive proof
26 Grip
29 Trigger's rider
30 Id counterpart
31 See 36-Across
32 Victory
33 Auction
34 — out a living
35 Lubricate
36 With 31-Across, 1957 Pat Boone hit
37 Forefront of activity
40 From square one
41 Etta James classic
45 "The Forsyte —"
47 $ dispenser
49 Perjurer
50 Paradise
51 Unruly group
52 Advan-tage
53 "The Da Vinci —"
54 "Mayday!"
55 Dilbert's workplace

Down

1 Ganges garment
2 Footnote word
3 Harvest
4 As a group
5 Egypt's capital
6 The whole enchilada
7 Top prize on many recent game shows
8 Fix, as software
9 Hats
10 Sphere
11 Misery
19 Mischievous tyke
21 Whatever number
23 Baleen whale's fodder
24 Wrinkly citrus
25 Christmas refrain
26 Staff leader?
27 Norse trickster god
28 Did a mean job?
32 Some Native American homes
33 Relieved
35 Individual
36 Pismire
38 Crazy
39 Poetic feet
42 Staffer
43 Droops
44 "Star —"
45 Moment
46 Commotion
48 Excessively

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

Send a kiss

- **Laughing.** He who has the last laugh laughs hardest and longest! =) From Out Loud
- **Sweet Art.** It took everything I had to give you a cupcake on Valentine's Day, and despite its heart box I felt that you didn't completely understand... Please open your eyes and look my way - I want to bake the next batch together with you. Boy Over Flour.
- **Yummi.** I hope that one day you will see this message that I left you just so you know how I feel. I want to tell you everyday but I can never find the courage. I think you're amazing, in every way. If there's one thing I know for sure it's how you make me feel. Me
- **Sebastion.** here i am<3 you just pucker up your lips like dis:P From fern
- **The Truth.** The truth is love, and no matter how much it's tough sometimes because love is a process of evolving and becoming more holy, we will all be ok. Just relax and let love grow. Monumental is the expression, in honesty, which can only create a happier, more honest truth to your life. Trust in your deeper way of feeling, and let it shine!

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Resist the urge to change methods for no good reason. New ways are not always better ways.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Moderation is a must today. If you fly too high, for whatever reason, the full moon will bring you back to earth with a bump.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Someone in a position of authority will make you an offer you find hard to refuse.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. If you let your imagination get the better of you, chances are you will overreact to something that isn't worth getting worked up about.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Both the sun and moon highlight the more materialistic areas of your chart at the moment.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Because today's full moon takes place in your birth sign, you may find it hard keeping your feelings under wraps. That's not bad.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Whether or not you enjoy what you have to do today depends entirely on your attitude.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. If you want to show that you're not the secretive, suspicious textbook Scorpio type now is the time.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Try not to come on too strong today, especially at work.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You're in a positive frame of mind and that's good, but someone will try to burst your bubble over the next 24 hours.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If you get involved in a war of words today your rivals may start thinking you have something to hide, and it could be that you do!

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Don't give up on a relationship just because it is going through a rough patch. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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Beth

RACHEL DENNY CLOW, CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMERS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gold jewellery from $20.00 and up!

Our huge selection is price guaranteed to beat any advertised price. All our jewellery would be priced 50% to 70% higher at other stores. Now with an additional 35% off of our every day low prices.

14kt white gold with 55 diamonds (2.75 cttw) tennis bracelet

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,560.00

J&M Sale Price $1.644.00

10kt classic hand-carved cameo brooch

Appraisal value: $1,500.00
J&M Regular Price $749.00

J&M Sale Price $487.00

14kt yellow gold dangling earrings set with cubic zircons, 3.36 grams

J&M Regular Price $139.00

J&M Sale Price $90.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond

Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00

J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

18kt white gold pendant with 61 diamonds (0.89 cttw)

Appraisal value: $2,100.00
J&M Regular Price $795.00

J&M Sale Price $517.00

18kt white gold bracelet, polished finishing, chess-style diamond cut pattern links, 18.21 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,490.00

J&M Sale Price $968.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00

J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

10kt yellow gold 'wave'-style hoop earrings, 1.76 grams

J&M Regular Price $85.00

J&M Sale Price $55.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds

Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00

J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams

J&M Regular Price $473.00

J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt white gold band, 3.8 grams

J&M Regular Price $311.00

J&M Sale Price $250.00

One of the largest selections of rings, earrings, chains and other jewellery, all at every day low prices, with 20% additional savings for a compounded saving!

14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,534.00

J&M Sale Price $1,227.00

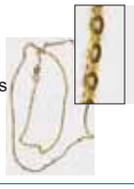
.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams

J&M Regular Price $565.00

J&M Sale Price $365.00

Dare to compare!

We checked out the competition at mall stores and our every day prices are *still* better than their sale prices!



1.36 gram chain purchased on sale December 30, 2011, for $125.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day was $60.93

You would have saved $64.07

1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13

You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 0.98 grams

J&M Regular Price $48.00

J&M Sale Price $37.80

Probably the largest jewellery close-out sale ever in the Lower Mainland!

Voted #1 Jewellery Store in the 2011 and 2012 *Readers Choice Awards,* **Stars of Vancouver !**

Consumer's Choice Award Winner *Best Local Jeweller* **for 10 Years in a Row!**

J&M Coin & Jewellery Ltd.

Vancouver Showroom 127 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 1W1 604-876-7181
Metrotown Centre 348 - 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4J2 604-439-0753

Plenty of FREE PARKING underneath our Vancouver store, entrance off 8th Avenue